

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 4-31 as shown below. For convenience, a full set of all of the claims as they presently stand is provided in the "Claims Appendix" at the end of this document.

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4. (New) A method of controlling a rendering engine executing on a digital processor, the method comprising
accepting signals from a user input device to specify a camera position using text; and
sending an indication of the specification to the rendering engine.
 5. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising
using a default area in a scene to determine a camera pointing direction.
 6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of using a default camera area includes a substep of
determining an action area where action in the scene is occurring;
defining the default area to include at least a portion of the action area.
 7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the action area includes object movement.
 8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the action area includes character speaking movements.
 9. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of sending uses a network.
 10. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising
accepting signals from a user input device to specify a camera position using math coordinates.

11. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the text includes a reference to an object in a scene.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising setting the camera position at substantially the object's position.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising omitting rendering of the object.

14. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising setting the camera position adjacent to the object's position.

15. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the object position is changing, the method further comprising setting the camera position at a point that is derived from the object's changing position.

16. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the object includes parts having positions, the method further comprising setting the camera position relative to one or more of the part positions.

17. (New) A control program embodied on a computer-readable medium for controlling a rendering engine, the control program including one or more instructions for specifying a camera position in relation to an object in a scene.

18. (New) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising one or more instructions for specifying a camera position in relation to an object in a scene.

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19. (New) A method for controlling a rendering engine, the method comprising accepting signals from a user input device to allow a human user to specify character actions, wherein default character actions are automatically specified if omitted by the human user.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein an automatically specified character action includes a character's gait.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein default audio is specified.

22. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein at least a portion of a character model is automatically specified.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising accepting signals from a user input device to specify a character's physical characteristics; and using at least one specified physical characteristic to generate a character model.

24. (New) A method for controlling a rendering engine to produce audio, the method comprising receiving an electronic representation of human speech; and using the electronic representation to animate lip movement in a character displayed on a display device.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the electronic representation includes a waveform.

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26. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising receiving animation information for animating lip movement in accordance with the received electronic representation of human speech.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the received animation information includes digital video.

28. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the electronic representation includes text representation, the method further comprising performing speech synthesis in response to the received electronic representation.

29. (New) A control program embodied on a computer-readable medium for controlling a rendering engine, the control program including one or more instructions for receiving an electronic representation of human speech; and one or more instructions for using the electronic representation to animate lip movement in a character displayed on a display device.

30. (New) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising one or more instructions for receiving an electronic representation of human speech; and one or more instructions for using the electronic representation to animate lip movement in a character displayed on a display device.

31. (New) A method of creating an electronic presentation, the method comprising sending control information over a network to control a rendering engine executing on a processor coupled to the network to produce an animated sequence of images on a display.

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